

TS6428 US

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1 of the specification, immediately below the title, delete

~~Priority Claim~~

~~The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 03252656.8 filed April 25, 2003,~~

~~Field of the Invention~~

~~The present invention relates to an expander system for radially expanding a tubular element from a first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter.~~

~~Background of the Invention~~

~~Expansion of tubular elements finds increasing use in the industry of hydrocarbon fluid production from an earth formation, whereby boreholes are drilled to provide a conduit for hydrocarbon fluid flowing from a reservoir zone to a production facility to surface. Conventionally such borehole is provided with several tubular casing sections during drilling of the borehole. Since each subsequent casing section must pass through a previously installed casing section, the different casing section are of decreasing diameter in downward direction which leads to the well known nested arrangement of casing sections. Thus the available diameter for the production of hydrocarbon fluid decreases with depth. This can lead to technical and / or economical drawbacks, especially for deep wells where a relatively large number of separate casing sections is to be installed.~~

and insert:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 03252656.8 filed April 25, 2003.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an expander system for radially expanding a tubular element from a first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Expansion of tubular elements finds increasing use in the industry of hydrocarbon fluid production from an earth formation, whereby boreholes are drilled to provide a conduit for hydrocarbon fluid flowing from a reservoir zone to a production facility to surface.

Conventionally such borehole is provided with several tubular casing sections during drilling of the borehole. Since each subsequent casing section must pass through a previously installed casing section, the different casing section are of decreasing diameter in downward direction which leads to the well-known nested arrangement of casing sections. Thus the available diameter for the production of hydrocarbon fluid decreases with depth. This can lead to technical and / or economical drawbacks, especially for deep wells where a relatively large number of separate casing sections is to be installed.

On page 2, the previously-added subheading “~~Summary of the Invention~~” should be capitalized to read

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 4, the previously-added subheading “~~Brief Description of the Drawings~~” should be capitalized to read

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, the previously-added subheading “Detailed Description of the Invention” should be replaced with

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS